

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2008

North Carolina



Milford Edmund Aycock Vice President, Wachovia Bank & Trust

Hometown: Raleigh, NC

Nominated by: North Carolina 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Wayne Co. 4-H member - projects in cotton and judging draft horses. NC State Fair excellent honors in draft horse judging. Attended 1929 National 4-H Club Camp. NC 4-H Honor Club 1931 inaugural class. Asst. & Co. 4-H and Farm Agent 11 years.

Honors: Honorary Lifetime Member, NC 4-H Development Fund. Established Edmund & Elizabeth Aycock 4-H Scholarship Endowment in 2002. Progressive Farmer's 1984 Man of the Year in the South. Received the NC State University Watauga Medal. Wake Co. Board of Commissioners for 12 years, ten as chair. Served on and chaired numerous state, university, and agricultural committees.

Biography:

With simple beginnings as a farm boy and 4-H member in Wayne Co., Edmund Aycock is one of the most respected individuals in the state. Edmund had many 4-H accomplishments, but he says his most successful was meeting his future bride, Elizabeth Johnson, 1936 NC Health Queen, at NC 4-H Club Shortcourse. Receiving an agriculture degree from NCSU in 1936, he spent 11 years as County 4-H & Farm Agent and worked as farm manager. During 23 years at Wachovia Bank, he held many positions and retired as Vice President in 1978. During that time, he also was a consultant to numerous business and agri-business start-ups. He was selected as the executive officer of the NC Agribusiness Council and served from 1981-91.

Edmund & Elizabeth Aycock have chosen to give back in many ways. They have made gifts to the NC State Alumni Center. The Edmund and Elizabeth Aycock 4-H Scholarship Endowment that they established in 2002 provides educational scholarships to 4-H youth who could otherwise not attend college. They continue to give to the scholarship and often make special contributions to one of their "boys or girls" who need a little extra cash. Says one of their students, "The Aycocks have made it possible for me to achieve beyond my 4-H career. I wish to pass their legacy forward by supporting their scholarship as an adult because they have shown me the way to a great future."

Quote:

"Milford Edmund Aycock is one of the most respected gentleman leaders in North Carolina. Because of his agriculture and leadership projects, Edmund was tapped as a 1931 charter member of the 4-H Honor Club. He served as an agent and established agricultural commodity groups, earning him the name, "Mr. NC Commodity Organizer." As Wachovia's Vice President, he developed leadership that prepared him for 70 years of statewide, innovative public service. At age 94, he continues to serve in many positions with a giving spirit; no citizen is more admired for his commitment to 4-H values than Edmund." R. Marshall Stewart, Associate Director & State 4-H Leader



Vernon James and Edmund Aycock, the two remaining members of the 1931 NC 4-H Honor Club inaugural class.

Edmund and Elizabeth Aycock accept an award from North Carolina Sec. of State Elaine Marshall.

